

Attorney Docket No.: 5577-228
Application Serial No.: 09/768,086
Filed: January 23, 2001
Page 13 of 14

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of April 27, 2005. In particular, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 3-5, 8-10, 15-16, 20-22, 25-27, 32-33, 37-39, 42-44 and 49-50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have done so and, therefore, respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed herein. Applicants have also amended the specification at page 5 as set out above and, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Specification Objections

The Office Action objects to the specification at page 5, paragraph 4. Applicants have amended the specification to recite "Figures 1 through 6" and, therefore, request that the objection with respect to the specification be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 18 and 35 are Patentable over the Cited References

Claims 1, 6-7, 11-12, 14, 18, 23-24, 28-29, 31, 35, 40-41, 45-46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,864,865 to Lakis (hereinafter "Lakis") in view of United States Patent No. 5,651,006 to Fujino (hereinafter "Fujino"). See Office Action, page 2. Applicants have rewritten Claims 3, 8, 20, 25, 37 and 42 in independent form and, therefore submit that these claims and the claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance. Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 18 and 35 from the present application and have amended the dependencies of many of the dependent claims to conform to the cancellation of these claims.

Accordingly, Independent Claims 1, 18 and 35 are patentable over the cited combination for at least the reasons discussed herein. Furthermore, the dependent claims are patentable over the cited reference at least per the patentability of the independent base claims from which they depend.

Attorney Docket No.: 5577-228
Application Serial No.: 09/768,086
Filed: January 23, 2001
Page 14 of 14

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above. Thus, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in due course. Favorable examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Stanek
Registration No. 48,568

USPTO Customer No. 46589
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401